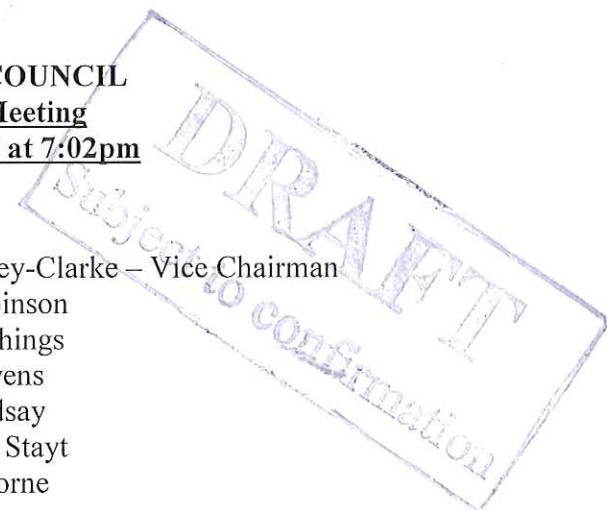


BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on Monday 28th January 2019 at 7:02pm



PRESENT

Cllr R Carter – Chairman
Cllr P Clark
Cllr H Mieville
Cllr H White
Cllr B Quayle
Cllr L Hitchings
Cllr John Stayt
Cllr H Galpin

Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – Vice Chairman
Cllr D Robinson
Cllr S Hitchings
Cllr C Stevens
Cllr L Lindsay
Cllr Jackie Stayt
Cllr P Osborne

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk
Operations Manager
District Cllr J E T Tanner
Member of the public

Assistant Town Clerk
Responsible Financial Officer
Nicci Brown – Press

142. PUBLIC SESSION

- 142.1 Cllr Carter invited Councillors to the Mayor's Ball on 23rd March in the Corn Exchange.
- 142.2 Cllr Carter reminded Councillors that it is an election year and requested that all Councillors read the Council's Media and Social Media policy.

143. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 143.1 Pavement Slabs – The County Council will replace the slabs. Cllr Quayle will engage local organisations like the Civic Society. A team has been set up to design a layout and a number of options have been found to meet DCC and NDDC requirements. Cllr Quayle thanked the Town Clerk, Operations Manager and Project Co-Ordinator for their assistance as well as Cllr Lacey-Clarke. There is still a lot of work to be done, i.e. public consultations. The Chairman thanked County Cllr Quayle for his efforts.
- 143.2 Highways Issues – Cllr Quayle has received complaints about the issues with the roundabout at Elizabeth Road, as it seems that buses have been driving over the middle. This might be due to cars parking close to the roundabout. The road will be included in the Parking Review.
- 143.3 Pot Holes and Blocked Gullies – Cllr Quayle asked Councillors to report any issues to him.
- 143.4 Footpath Closure – The closure from Charles Street to St Leonards Avenue will start on 4th February for 5 days.
- 143.5 Gritting – During the bad weather DCC vehicles have been out and gritted the network.
- 143.6 Badger Cross – Works to the area will start on 18th February for 12 weeks. The Badger Cross will be redesigned, including new signals, junction work and updates to the gas supply, for a 12-week period.
- 143.7 Parking Review – Cllr Quayle held meetings with a specialist team from County Council and they are working on it. They were pleased with the level of detail provided by the Steering Group. The Unitary Council can pick up major infrastructure work.

143. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR (CONT)

- 143.8 Power cuts – Cllr Quayle has spoken to the service providers who advised that there are issues with low and high voltage.
- 143.9 X8A – The circular route was not quite circular. Following a meeting last week, this has now been achieved that the route is circular and from May there will be a bus stop in Morrison. There has been a 30% increase in usage since the change of route.

Cllr L Hitchings enquired if there will be a commitment from the District Council when the slabs need replacing? Cllr Quayle is still having discussions. If the slabs are financially viable then DCC will replace them.

Cllr Mieville asked which roads get gritted. The full information in on the DorsetForYou website, the gritting starts with A-roads and then B-roads.

Cllr Stevens confirmed that the buses do go across the roundabout in Elizabeth Road. Cllr S Hitchings confirmed that, as they both saw it happening.

Cllr Stevens enquired if the cables under the slabs are being renewed whilst the slabs are being replaced and Cllr Quayle will take this forward.

Cllr S Hitchings confirmed that the junction of Holland Way, Heddington Drive and Fairfield Bungalows was not gritted and thinks that this should be done as it is a bus route.

144. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 144.1 Cllr Jackie Stayt – Cllr Jackie Stayt informed Councillors that the next Planning Meeting is tomorrow 29th January and the next one is planned for 11th February.
- 144.2 Cllr J Tanner – Officers are now optimistic that permission for the spraying of the Blandford Fly will be granted. The Shadow Council voted to give powers to Parish and Town Councils to request that Planning Applications can go to Committee. He is not pleased that Councillors are not notified of tree works. Cllr Tanner has received information regarding the new Council tax. The Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.
- 144.3 Cllr N Lacey-Clarke – The Shadow authority budget meeting is on Friday 1st February 2019.
- 144.4 Cllr T Handford – Not in attendance.
- 144.5 Cllr B Cooper – Not in attendance.

145. APOLOGIES

None

146. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that

A dispensation is granted to all Councillors, except Cllrs Galpin and L Hitchings (as they do not live in Blandford Forum), to enable them to participate in discussion and vote on the setting of the council tax.

147. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2018

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lee Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Stevens and AGREED (11 in favour, 4 abstentions) that the Minutes be APPROVED and SIGNED.

148. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 148.1 Blandford Camp – Simon Hoare MP has written to confirm that he has received a letter from Tobias Ellwood MP that the government website that stated the Camp was due to close in the Defence Infrastructure organisation Procurement Plan 2018-19 was published in error with a disposal date of 2023 for the Camp.
- 148.2 The Trafalgar Way – The Town Clerk has had a meeting with Kathy Brown, who has been appointed by The 1805 Club as Director of The Trafalgar Way to pick up the initiative and give the legacy some new direction and impetus to carry it forward for future generations. She would like to organise an event in Blandford on Saturday 18th May and is also seeking memories of the 2005 bicentenary event when Esme Butler was Mayor. A post has been added to the Town Council's Facebook page and a Forum Focus article/newsletter will follow, in due course, to make sure as many people see it as possible. We are seeking memories from the bicentenary event held in 2005, any descendants from the Blandford men who went to Trafalgar and seeking support from local organisations who might like to be involved in a display in the Corn Exchange on 18th May. A member of The 1805 Club has also been invited to give a talk about The Battle of Trafalgar and The Trafalgar Way on Friday 17th May 2019 in the Corn Exchange.
- 148.3 Premises Licence – The Town Clerk has now obtained her Personal Licence and is licensed to make or authorise the sale or supply of alcohol in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 within any licensed premises. An application to vary the Corn Exchange premises licence to include the sale of alcohol was submitted a fortnight ago and is currently being advertised and considered by the responsible authorities.

149. CIVIC REPORT

The paper was sent to Councillors via email.

150. TO APPROVE THE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS FOR 2019/20

The paper was noted (see Appendix A) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr Robinson, and AGREED unanimously that

The subscription to the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils for 2019/20 is approved.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

151. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT VEHICLE

The paper was noted (see Appendix B).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Lindsay and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council approves that Officers have delegated authority to purchase a replacement van up to a cost of £9,000 using funds from the Vehicle Accruals budget line (Expenditure Authority: General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, S1-8).

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

152. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE:

152.1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Blandford +

Cllr Carter informed that the Regulation 16 consultation is currently underway, however substantial documents cannot be changed.

152. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FROM THE: (cont)

152.2 14-18 Working Group (First World War Centenary)

The last meeting was held on 9th January 2019. Cllr Carter would like to remind Councillors that no public money was spent on this Working Group. The money raised will be donated; £2000 is spent on a Book of Blandford, £1000 is given to the Damory Arch project, £200 to the Railway Club as they used their display boards and £807 will go towards the purchase of the WW1 commemorative bench at the Tabernacle.

152.3 Corn Exchange Working Group

The architects have been in touch to advise that they will try to avoid charging as much as possible for anything strictly outside of their original appointment. They want to establish the principle of being able to do so should a large problem area appear with the existing building that none of us had foreseen and suggested an addendum is added to the agreement. In the meantime, WDA has confirmed they are concentrating on moving the project forward straight away and will issue reports and discuss the appointment of consultants.

152.3.1 To consider a request from the architect

The paper was noted (see Appendix C).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council gives delegated authority to the Working Group to sign and approve the addendum in consultation with Officers.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr L Hitchings left the meeting at 7.53pm.

152.4 Public Art Plan Working Group

152.4.1 To receive the feedback from the consultation and delegate authority to the working group

Cllr L Hitchings returned to the meeting at 7.54pm.

The paper was noted (see Appendix D).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr John Stayt but NOT agreed (7 in favour, 8 against) that the Town Council delegates authority to the Working Group to discuss the options before going out to the second consultation.

It was THEN PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Robinson and AGREED unanimously that

The Town Council goes to the second stage of public consultation with the original questions.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Clark left the meeting at 8.04pm.

153. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

The paper was noted (see Appendix E).

153. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS (cont)

It was PROPOSED by Cllr L Hitchings, SECONDED by Cllr D Robinson and AGREED (14 in favour, 1 non-vote) that

The Town Council notes the update to the strategic plan and Cllr Carter asked for the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan to be updated.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

154. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- 154.1 BLCCG – A report for the Blandford Leisure Centre Consultative Group was distributed by Cllr Lindsay.
- 154.2 BRATAG – The minutes from the Blandford & Rural Areas Transport Action Group, received from Cllr S Hitchings, were circulated to all Councillors.
- 154.3 TIC – Cllr Jackie Stayt informed Cllrs that there hasn't been a meeting for a while due to staffing issues, but they are working on replacing people.

Cllr Clark returned to the meeting at 8.06pm.

- 154.4 Citizens Advice – They have been very busy with due diligence, as Weymouth and Portland are joining.
- 155.5 Town Team - Cllr Mieville attended meeting and a representative from the AONB is keen to talk to the Town Council to talk about the new tourist app.

Post Meeting Note: The Assistant Town Clerk has already invited Roger Goulding to the next Town Council meeting in 25th February to give a presentation to Councillors.

155. TO CONSIDER SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

The paper was noted (see Appendix F).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mieville, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle and AGREED (13 in favour, 2 against) that

The Town Council will submit an Expression of Interest for the Fund, focussing on the purchase and the pedestrianisation of the Market Place.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

Cllr Lindsay left the meeting at 8.19pm.

156. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

156.1 Finance and Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th December 2018

156.1.1 To confirm the overall budget and precept for the year 2019/20

Cllr S Hitchings thanked the staff involved in the budget process and the Finance & Staffing Committee Vice Chairman for their hard work. He also thanked Councillors who have already asked questions about the budget.

Cllr Lindsay returned to the meeting at 8.21pm.

The paper was noted (see Appendix G) and the revised budget, including the housing figures from NDDC, was discussed in great detail by Councillors and Cllr S Hitchings presented a variety of options.

156. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES (cont)

156.1.1 To confirm the overall budget and precept for the year 2019/20

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Lacey-Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Quayle but NOT agreed (2 in favour, 12 against, 1 abstention) that the Town Council reduces the Corn Exchange funding by allocating £5,000 to budget line 1105 Corn Exchange Capital Project Replacement, £5,000 in budget line 1115 Corn Exchange Project Development, £10,000 in Corn Exchange match funding and reduces the Support for Essential Services budget line to £10,000, which would equate to a decrease of 0.37 % on the Band D figure.

It was then PROPOSED by Cllr Lindsay, SECONDED by Cllr Jackie Stayt and AGREED (12 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention) that

The Town Council confirms the precept for 2019/2020 at £794,744, which equates to an increase of 2.21 % on the Band D figure, which now amounts to £224.64 (an increase of 0.09p a week).

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

SIGNED

DATED